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Message Text

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51
ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IO-14 MED-03 HEW-08 SCI-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 EUR-25 EA-11 SCA-01 /135 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:JELEADER:HME
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NEA:LBLAINGEN
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---------- 069172
P 081643Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, CE
SUBJECT: GSL REQUEST FOR CHOLERA VACCINE

REF: COLOMBO 2755

1. WE CAN APPRECIATE YOUR DIFFICULTY IN DEALING WITH GSL DISAPPOINTMENT OVER USG POLICY ON EPIDEMIC ASSISTANCE. WE HOPE CEYLONESE CAN BE CONVINCED OUR POLICY IS MOTIVATED PURELY BY DESIRE SUPPORT MOST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION IN MEETING SUCH AN EPIDEMIC.

2. SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS LED US IN 1971 TO SUPPORT PROGRAM OF WHO COORDINATION OF RELIEF IN EPIDEMIC IN LIEU OF UNCOORDINATED BILATERAL AID.

A. WE THINK WHO IS APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATION TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION ROLE IN ASSISTING COUNTRY
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WHICH FACES EPIDEMIC THREAT. INSTINCTIVE REACTION OF

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MOST GOVERNMENTS IS TO LAUNCH MASS INNOCULATION COMPAIGN. INTERNATIONAL CHOLERA EXPERTS NOW HOLD THIS USUALLY IS NOT VERY EFFECTIVE COUNTER-MEASURE AND IN FACT OFTEN DIVERTS EFFORTS FROM MORE IMPORTANT MEASURES SUCH AS INTENSIVE EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON PROPHYLACTIC SANITARY AND PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES AND PROGRAM OF QUICK IDENTIFI-

CATION AND INTENSIVE TREATMENT OF INFECTED PERSONS.

B. WHO COORDINATION PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR MOBILIZING SCARCE INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING VACCINE WHERE INNOCULATIONS ARE DESIRABLE. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS CURRENT EPIDEMIC ALSO IN MALAWI. WHO BEST QUALIFIED TO DETERMINE AVAILABLE SOURCES OF VACCINE AND LOGISTICS OF WHEN AND WHERE THEY SHOULD BE APPLIED. WE FRANKLY DO NOT WISH TO SEE THESE DETERMINATIONS MADE ON BILATERAL POLITICAL GROUNDS.

C. US VACCINE SUPPLY IS LIMITED AND SPORADIC IN VOLUME BECAUSE CHOLERA IS RARE HERE AND SHORT-SHELF LIFE PROHIBITS RETAINING LARGE RESERVES. THIS PROBLEM FURTHER COMPLICATED NOW SINCE DOD IS CEASING ROUTINE MILITARY CHOLERA VACCINA-TIONS AS OF JANUARY 1974. DOD HAS BEEN MAJOR HOLDER OF RESERVES BUT AS INDICATED REFTEL PRESENTLY HAS ONLY ABOUT 100,000 READILY AVAILABLE DOSES TO SPARE. FOR THIS REASON WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO BE RELIABLE BILATERAL SUPPLIER OF VACCINE IN EMERGENCIES. (UK AND AUSTRALIA PRESUMABLY ARE IN BETTER SUPPLY POSITION BECAUSE THEY ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO POTENTIAL EPIDEMICS.) WE HAVE NO OBJECTION YOUR INFORMING CEYLONESE AND UK AND AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONS STATUS OUR STOCKS.

4. AS INDICATED REFTEL YOU MAY TELL GSL THAT WE ARE ATTENTIVE TO ANY WHO REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE IN EPIDEMIC SITUATION, AND ALSO WE ARE PREPARED MAKE AVAILABLE AN EPIDEMIOLOGIST OR OTHER CHOLERA EXPERT TO ADVISE GSL IF THIS WOULD BE USEFUL. WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO SRI LANKA'S CHOLERA PROBLEM AND ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN WAY GSL AND WHO EXPERTS BELIEVE MOST USEFUL.

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5. AS INDICATED PARA 4 REFTEL WE DO HAVE MECHANISM FOR CONSIDERATION DIRECT BILATERAL ASSISTANCE IF AMBASSADOR DETERMINES STATE OF DISASTER EXISTS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD CONTINUE TO STRESS THAT VACCINE IS NOT THE DESIRABLE COUNTER-MEASURE FOR SUCH AN EPIDEMIC. FURTHER BACKGROUND ON US ATTITUDES ON CHOLERA IS CONTAINED IN "INTERIM REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON CHOLERA", AID, 20 COPIES OF WHICH POUCHED TO EMBASSY JUNE 8.

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6. WE REGRET DELAY IN REPLY TO COLOMBO 2730, BUT TIME WAS NEEDED TO ASCERTAIN HOW MUCH (OR IN THIS CASE, HOW LITTLE) VACCINE ACTUALLY AVAILABLE. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: VACCINES, CHOLERA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: JELEADER:HME
Enclosure: n/a
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Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731146/aaaabhrv.tel
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Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
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